



Academic Rank of Board Certified Medical Toxicologists in U.S. Medical Schools

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Background

- Medical toxicology is a growing specialty within the United States (U.S.)
- The academic rank of board certified (BC) medical toxicologists affiliated with U.S. medical schools has not been previously reported

Research Question

- The purpose of this study is to describe the academic rank of BC medical toxicologists in the U.S.

Methods

- A listing of BC medical toxicologists in the U.S. was obtained from:
 - American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS)
 - American Board of Medical Toxicology (ABMT)
- Each medical toxicologist was entered into the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Medical School Faculty Online Directory, which includes full time faculty only
- Affiliation and academic rank of each medical toxicologist were identified
- Academic rankings of remaining BC medical toxicologists were identified through institutional websites

Results

- 217 of 462 (47%) BC medical toxicologists were found to have an academic rank in the AAMC Medical School Faculty Online database
- A search of medical school websites identified an additional 88 BC medical toxicologists who hold an academic appointment
- Of the 462 BC medical toxicologists in the U.S., 305 (66%) hold an academic rank

Table 1. BC Medical Toxicologists by Academic Rank in the U.S.

	Instructor	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor	Professor	Other
AAMC	4 (2%)	91 (42%)	54 (25%)	66 (30%)	2 (1%)
Medical School	6 (7%)	34 (39%)	30 (34%)	18 (20%)	
Total	10 (3%)	125 (41%)	84 (28%)	84 (28%)	2 (< 0.01%)

Discussion

- A large proportion of board certified toxicologists hold an academic rank at a US medical school
- However, this does not imply they are teaching or practicing medical toxicology, and some may be solely focused on their primary specialty
- Retired BC medical toxicologists may also account for some who are BC, but without an academic rank

Conclusion

- 305 (66%) of the board certified medical toxicologists in the U.S. hold an academic rank, of which 84 (28%) are full professors

